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Subject: Arco status
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Kristine-

Primarily due to contractor and construction-related delays, the sediment removal project at the Arco site got behind schedule and completion by the October 31 fish window became questionable. Project delays were mostly due to installation of ~180 80-foot tiebacks for the new steel sheetpile wall, which proved more difficult and time-consuming than expected, and not due to sediment excavation activities that commenced only a few weeks ago. On October 15, we made a decision to complete the project rather than stopping, placing a temporary cap over the winter, and resuming next year. All parties agreed that the benefits of finishing the project now, although challenging, outweighed the risks of extending work into November or having the partially excavated site remain over the winter. I understand that NOAA has verbally approved this work extension until November 15, 2008, as they too would rather finish excavation and backfill activities this year.

The current schedule is to complete sediment excavation by around October 31 and to complete backfill activities by November 15. The temporary in-water sheetpile containment wall, which effectively prevented river turbidity monitoring violations through this construction project and provides greater comfort in working beyond the fish window, will likely be removed next year along with final grading and planting activities.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Thanks-

Tom Gainer, P.E.

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